Merger of sick public sector undertakings of West Bengal

31. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to merge five sick public sector undertakings of West Bengal into a new holding company ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b) As part of the structural reorganisation of public enterprises, with a view to improve their autonomy, and inter-unit coordination, a proposal has been made to form holding companies consisting of public enterprises keeping in view their inter-related product groups. No decision has been taken on the proposal.

Viability of EPI

32. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Employees' Union regarding viability of Engineering Projects (India) Limited ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the proposal is acceptable to Government ; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (d) . Engineernig Projects (India) Ltd. Employees Union have given suggestions to the Government for improving the viability of the Company, which include recovery of advances being shown as losses, appointment of a regular Chief Executive, action against corrupt officials and running the Company on a new footing and beginning. While taking a final decision on certain proposals for restructuring of the Company which are under consideration, Government will give due consideration to the suggestions made by the Engg. Projects (India) Ltd. Employees Union.

Productivity of Indian Industries

33. SHRI K. MOHANAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have ordered an inquiry into the productivity of Indian industries recently;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the said inquiry;

(c) the details of the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on the inquiry report, and

(d) if no follow-up action was ordered, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tyre industry

34. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tyre industry unilaterally increased prices of tyres both before and after